

CHILDREN & DISASTERS NEWSLETTER



FEMA



January 2017

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Be Safe This Winter



Only 40% have developed a household emergency plan.

Be safe this winter. **Make a plan.**

Winter is here, and, for some, it has already arrived. Are you part of the 40%* of families that have already developed a household emergency plan? If not, get ahead of the winter weather and make your plan now. [Click here](#) to learn how to create your emergency plans.

**Those surveyed who live in winter storm hazard areas*

FOR THE NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR YOUTH EMERGENCY EDUCATION

NATIONAL STRATEGY
FOR YOUTH EMERGENCY EDUCATION

FROM THE FIELD

Students Build Shelter for Credit

High school seniors at Neah-Kah-Nie High School (NKNHS) in Rockaway Beach, OR, recently built an [emergency supplies shed and shelter for the Tillamook County Public Works Department \(PWD\)](#). The 10-foot by 14-foot structure will be used as shelter for disaster relief responders in Tillamook and Umatilla Counties, helping to add to community resilience. The project taught students valuable skills about preparedness and rewarded their hard work with earned Career and Technical Education (CTE) credits.

The 12-week-long construction project began when Tillamook PWD officials discussed the project with school officials and offered to work together through providing supplies for the shelter if students were interested in participating in the building and learning process. Two seniors decided this opportunity would be a meaningful way to complete their required senior project.

One of the two, 17-year-old Luis Perez, spoke about his experience participating with the project, “We didn’t just start grabbing hammers and nailing things together. We went over safety precautions and planning.” Luis went on to say, “Overall it was fun to help out my community with a project that is so important to it.”

“If disaster strikes in Tillamook County, Umatilla emergency personnel fly in to help and they’ll need a safe place to stay,” said PWD Director Liane Welch. “Instead of simply buying a ready-made shed to fit this need, why not get the kids involved?” Welch asked her team. She added, “I think it’s a really good partnership between the public, the school system, and emergency management.”



Neah-Kah-Nie High School students build an emergency supplies shed and shelter for the Tillamook County Public Works Department (PWD).

“Living on the Oregon coast, we are at risk for being hit by earthquakes and tsunamis, so building a strong shed that could withstand these risks was very important,” Luis added. “I was really glad that I could use my skills to help out my community.”

The structure doubles as both a supplies shed and shelter for Umatilla County disaster relief officials, according to Director Welch. The shed has room for up to four people. It holds two weeks’ worth of supplies, including camping equipment, non-perishable food, water, sleeping bags, cots, and a shower.

To learn more about the project, contact Director Liane Welch, Public Works Department, Tillamook County at lwelch@co.tillamook.or.us.



The completed Tillamook County Public Works Department emergency supplies shed and shelter.

YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

National Webinar Emphasizes Tribal Preparedness

Hailey Starr is a member of FEMA’s [Youth Preparedness Council](#) (YPC) from FEMA Region 10 in the Pacific Northwest. Hailey was motivated to participate in National American Indian Heritage Month. She recently presented during the webinar “Celebrating National Native American Heritage Month” as part of the regularly hosted Community Preparedness webinar on November 30, 2016. Starr, of the Muckleshoot Tribe, is serving her second year on the YPC. During the webinar, she

spoke on how she demonstrated disaster preparedness and resilience efforts in her community. Hailey discussed why she believes teens can be successful in developing preparedness initiatives in their own communities.

"I've always been dedicated to improving the level of preparedness on the reservation where I live. But, presenting in front of emergency management professionals was a new experience for me," Starr explained. "It was a great opportunity and learning experience to be able to discuss these issues with other community leaders at the national level."



During the webinar, Hailey talked about raffling off emergency kits and teaching basic first aid to members of the Muckleshoot Tribe.

Hailey has been accepted to the nursing program at Pacific Lutheran University. She begins classes in Fall 2017.

If you missed this webinar, you can listen to it now by clicking [here](#).

Promoting Preparedness through “ePrep” Fair



Divakar Saini attends an Emergency Preparedness & Home Safety Fair at Addison Elementary School located in Palo Alto, CA.

Divakar Saini is a high school student in Palo Alto, CA. Divakar is also a co-chair of the FEMA's Youth Preparedness Council, representing FEMA Region 9. He recently worked with his local Office of Emergency Services to host an [Emergency Preparedness & Home Safety Fair](#) at Addison Elementary School.

Coordinating with school officials and emergency services volunteers, Saini organized an event to encourage younger kids to learn about disaster response in their community. The students learned about preparedness and response using interactive games including a question and answer preparedness prize wheel.

"Activities are fun ways to work with students while giving them important information on how to prepare for emergencies," Divakar explained. Participants also attended a demonstration hosted by the American Red Cross. The event was a success with more than 200 families enjoying the fair.

To learn more about promotional materials used for this fair, [click here](#).

ANNOUNCEMENT

2017 National Seasonal Preparedness Messaging Calendar Now Available

The [2017 National Seasonal Preparedness Messaging Calendar](#) is available now. The calendar includes important messages to aid in providing valuable content in promoting preparedness all year. This resource includes messaging that may be adapted to your local area. Click here to [download the calendar](#) and promote year-round preparedness today!



2017 National Seasonal Preparedness Messaging Calendar.

RESOURCES

Bring a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) to Your Campus

Organization: FEMA

Website: https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1470339607110-e31f7c7086431f7f8ba48bf6f3dd9fe/Campus_CERT_Starter_Guide_Final.pdf

Audience: Young adults and older

Topics: Disaster psychology, Fire safety, General preparedness, Medical, Personal safety, Recovery, Search and rescue, Volunteerism/Community service

Description: This guide is designed to assist those interested in starting a Campus CERT program and covers how to build support, develop the program, and provide training.

Help Children Cope With Traumatic Events

Audience: Children and youth, Parents, Caretakers

Topics: Disaster psychology, Recovery, Resilience

Description: These resources provide information on how to help children cope with trauma and disasters, taking into account that differences in age and development make a difference in what children understand and how they respond to a situation.

- American Red Cross and FEMA: [Helping Children Cope With Disaster](#)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: [Helping Children with Disabilities Cope with Disaster and Traumatic Events](#)

- FEMA: [Helping Children Cope](#)
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration: [Coping With Traumatic Events: Resources for Children, Parents, Educators, and Other Professionals](#)
- University of Illinois Extension: [Children, Stress, and Natural Disasters: A Guide for Teachers](#) and [Children, Stress, and Natural Disasters: School Activities for Children](#)
- University of Missouri Extension: [How to Help Children, Youth, and Teens After a Disaster](#)

Foster Positive Interactions in Young Children

Organization: UNICEF

Website: https://www.unicef.org/earlychildhood/index_52596.html

Audience: Parents, Caregivers

Topics: Disaster psychology, General preparedness, Health, Recovery, Resilience

Description: This kit was created to strengthen the response for young children caught in conflict or emergencies and contains materials to help children develop skills for thinking, speaking, feeling, and interacting with others.

Help Schools Prepare for Emergencies

Organization: Community for Accredited Online Schools

Website: <http://www.accreditedschoolsonline.org/resources/emergency-preparedness-in-school/>

Audience: School administrators

Topics: Earthquakes, Fire safety, Floods, General preparedness, Personal safety, Wildfires, Winter weather

Description: This website compiles a variety of resources addressing emergency and disaster preparedness for K-12 schools.

CONTACT US

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Disclaimer: The reader recognizes that the federal government provides links and informational data on various disaster preparedness resources and events and does not endorse any non-federal events, entities, organizations, services or products. Please let us know about other events and services related to youth preparedness that could be included in future newsletters by contacting FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov.

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